

Commercial Vehicle Operators & *Legionella*



Legionella are bacteria that can cause a serious lung infection called Legionnaires' disease. *Legionella* grow naturally in water and can also be found in human-made water sources. People can become infected with *Legionella* when they inhale water droplets that contain the bacteria.



Windshield wiper reservoirs

are not a common source of *Legionella* bacteria. However, if water is used in place of windshield wiper fluid to fill the reservoir, *Legionella* may grow and spread through the windshield washer nozzle. As a commercial vehicle operator, you may have a higher chance of getting Legionnaires' disease.

Decrease your risk by following these three simple steps:

- ✔ Only use full-strength windshield wiper fluid in your truck's windshield wiper fluid tank
- ✔ Ensure wiper fluid has anti-freeze or similar chemical
- ✔ Close the cab windows while cleaning your windshield



The number of people with Legionnaire's disease in Tennessee and in the United States has increased since 2000. Between 2018-2022, **785 people in Tennessee** were diagnosed with **Legionnaires' disease** and **25 of those cases were self-described commercial truck operators** during the time they could have become infected.



To learn more about *Legionella*, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html>
To learn more about *Legionella* and windshield wiper fluid, visit <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2022/05/10/legionnaires-truckers/>

Please contact the Tennessee Department of Health with questions or concerns: Legionella.Health@tn.gov